

## BENEFITS OF SGAUS MEMBERSHIP

Our Association was organized to promote the role and effectiveness of state authorized and organized defense forces, state guards, or state military reserves, as well as to foster and encourage cooperation between the various state defense forces, the Department of Defense, the National Guard, the active Armed Forces and their reserves, other government agencies, and the general public.

Since 1985, the SGAUS has grown tremendously. Starting with only a handful of members from several states, we now represent over 15,000 members in 33 states and territories, with nearly 20 SGAUS state chapters. Membership includes individuals from the National Guard, the Active forces and numerous state, and local emergency management/first responder organizations. In more recent years, the Association has become a nationally recognized entity.

Talking points for new members:

1. SGAUS is the member's "voice" with Congress and the State Legislature for changing/enacting legislation to benefit the State organization and its members.
2. SGAUS is the sponsor of the Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) program, the first such skill badge credential available to State members.
3. SGAUS provides an awards program that may recognize State members' outstanding service.

SGAUS President Vision: "As the SGAUS President for 2010, I will serve each and every member and all State Commanders to gain national recognition for the State Defense Forces and State Guards with DoD, NGAUS, AGAUS, ARNG and ANG senior leadership and with Congress to pass the SDF Improvement Act. The SGAUS executive organization will develop a membership action plan to reach 5,000 members in 2010, draft a near and far term strategic plan and public relations program, and will explore the possibility of scholarship awards for SGAUS members during the next 90 days for approval by the SGAUS Board of Directors." MG(VA) John D. Taylor